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PRINCIPALS CHANNEL

United States Department of State



The Counselor

Washington, D.C. 20520

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April 15, 1994

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TO: The Secretary

FROM: C - Timothy E. Wirth

SUBJECT: April 11 - 15, 1994

Negotiations during the second week of the final preparatory meeting for the Cairo population conference went well. Our delegation has worked hard to forge a consensus text: UN watchers are surprised at how smoothly things are going and far along we have managed to get. In the wake of letters sent by Pope John Paul to all heads of state, and some fairly misleading press, the President has asked for reassurance that the policy we are advocating related to abortion tracks with our domestic stance. Indeed it does! The U.S. position calls for abortion to be safe, legal and rare, as determined by national law. This policy position is distinct from the issue of funding; the Helms amendment prohibits U.S. expenditures for abortion-related services.

I met this week with [redacted] He did not speculate about who would become prime minister, but said he thought that the current political turmoil will, in the end, make Japan a "more mature democracy." We discussed next steps under the "common agenda" of the Framework Agreement. As you noted in your Tokyo speech, while working through trade issues, we want to continue making progress under the common agenda. We tentatively agreed to hold broad discussions here at the senior official level in late May. I also passed a non-paper describing U.S. proposals for new initiatives--children's health, counter-narcotics cooperation, global change research, and bio-diversity preservation.

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This week, too, the environment committee set up under the Gore-Chernomyrdin commission completed a productive set of meetings. In June, when the full commission meets, Gore and Chernomyrdin will be able to sign an important agreement on environmental cooperation, note new U.S. assistance to St. Petersburg's Komarov and Vavilov Institutes (elements of a broader initiative on bio-diversity and sustainable use of natural resources) and launch a joint working group to address severe environmental health problems in Russia. The committee

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- 2 -

is looking as well at ways to assist Russia to dispose of radioactive waste safely, to comply with Montreal Protocol provisions on emissions of ozone depleting substances, and to improve joint cooperation in the Arctic.

Population, Refugees and Migration

U.N. and NGO relief staff assisting Burundi refugees in Rwanda have been evacuated to neighboring countries. The U.N. and NGO's are gearing up for a substantial outflow from Rwanda of Rwandan and Burundi refugees fleeing the chaos there. In just the past week, we have seen some 75,000 people flee to Zaire alone. UNHCR is expecting as many as 270,000 Burundi and 150,000 Rwandan refugees all told in the weeks ahead.

Phyllis Oakley is preparing a request for \$15 million from the President's Emergency Refugee and Migration Affairs (ERMA) account to help meet the continuing needs of Burundi refugees, as well as the new requirements of Rwandan refugees.

Human Rights, Democracy and Labor

Early reports to the contrary, Monique Mujawamriya, the Rwandan human rights activist we cited in this year's Human Rights Report and with whom the president met on Human Rights Day, has been safely evacuated from Rwanda and is in Belgium. We worked closely with AF, the NSC and Human Rights Watch to alert everyone in a position to help, and Belgian forces were able to reach her in time.

We continue to seek a strong chief prosecutor for the Yugoslav War Crimes Tribunal. We are looking closely now at the option of appointing [redacted] to the chief prosecutor position.

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Narcotics, Terrorism and Crime

A Taiwan-registered vessel suspected of carrying illegal aliens is about 500 miles off San Diego and steaming slowly southwest. Taiwan authorities have given the Coast Guard permission to board, but the vessel so far has ignored our efforts to communicate. We have asked the Taiwan authorities to instruct the vessel to cooperate as a forced boarding with illegal aliens on board would be dangerous. We are keeping the Mexican government informed of developments as well.

Oceans, Environment and Science

As you know, the president approved the imposition of sanctions on wildlife and wildlife products from Taiwan on

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- 3 -

Monday. Environmental groups warmly welcomed the sanctions given Taiwan's continuing trade in rhino and tiger products. Despite complaints about the sanctions, there is evidence of growing government pressure to end the trade.

NASA and the Canadian government have not succeeded in finding enough cost-savings to allow the Canadians to fit their space station commitments into their budget. There is a risk the Canadians will drop out. However, if NASA is seen as going too far to accommodate Canadian needs, others are likely to seek relief, and the Congress is sure to be critical. An inter-agency team will go to Ottawa on Monday for more discussions.

Substantive negotiations in New York this week produced agreement on a package of amendments to the deep seabed provisions of the Law of the Sea Convention. This is a real breakthrough, but this complex set of understandings between G-77 and OECD countries is still fragile. A technical drafting session scheduled for the end of May should help firm up the new arrangements and we are considering a special UNGA in late summer to provide final confirmation.

Next Week's Agenda

- o I will participate in another quarterly meeting of the President's Council on Sustainable Development on Monday and Tuesday. We will discuss progress in developing a sustainable development strategy to be presented to the president next year.
- o Larry Pezzullo has agreed a suggestion that he convene a group of former U.S. ambassadors to Haiti to discuss the political, economic and humanitarian crises there. The group will explore possible new approaches.
- o I will return to New York next week on Wednesday for the closing three days of the ICPD prepcom.

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